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Item 71 of the preliminary list*

Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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* A/49/50/Rev.1.

AUSTRALIA

[Original: English]

[29 June 1994]

1. Australia welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on new alternative approaches to the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace to the Secretary-General, in response to the invitation contained in General Assembly resolution 48/82 of 16 December 1993.

2. As the resolution notes great-Power rivalry has been replaced by a new and welcome phase of confidence, trust and cooperation in international relations. The improved international political and security environment following the end of the cold war has created favourable opportunities to renew comprehensive multilateral and regional efforts towards the realization of the goals of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean.

3. To this end and with a view to providing a constructive contribution, we submit the following preliminary list of possible cooperative strategies, in four categories, which could be considered for implementation in the Indian Ocean region. It is not a prescriptive or exhaustive list but a menu of ideas for consideration. It comprises mechanisms and arrangements currently being considered in a range of forums, which could be applicable to the Indian Ocean region.

4. An expert group on the Indian Ocean could be convened in 1995 to consider, develop and elaborate such a list of cooperative strategies. It could make suggestions on priorities based on considerations of existing levels of cooperation and the potential for developing further cooperation.

5. Possible cooperative strategies

(a) Trust-building measures, e.g.:

- Maritime confidence-building measures;

- Promotion of transparency and trust-building:

  - Use of United Nations arms transfer register (or similar regional arrangements);

  - Adherence to existing treaties on weapons of mass destruction (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Biological Weapons Convention, Chemical Weapons Convention);

  - Accession to other existing multilateral disarmament instruments such as the Inhumane Weapons Convention, the Seabed Treaty, the Environmental Modification Convention, the Outer Space Treaty.

(b) Preventive diplomacy, e.g.:

- Establishment of risk reduction (conflict prevention) centres;

- Informal preventive diplomacy workshops;

- Utilization of United Nations preventive diplomacy units;

- Early warning, information gathering and exchange.

(c) Security, arms control and disarmament arrangements, e.g.:

- Extension of regional nuclear-weapon-free zones to an Indian Ocean nuclear-weapon-free zone (there are currently concrete and widely supported proposals for an African nuclear-weapon-free zone and a South-East Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone as well as existing zones in the South Pacific, Latin America and Antarctica);

- Support for negotiation of, and adherence to, future agreements on a comprehensive test ban and a Convention to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear-weapons purposes.

(d) Non-military threats to security:

- Cooperation on threats to security such as:

  - Refugee movements;

  - Drugs;

  - Piracy;

  - Environmental and marine pollution;

  - Natural disasters.

CHINA

[Original: Chinese]

[29 June 1994]

1. China has consistently supported the efforts of the States of the Indian Ocean region to safeguard their national independence, sovereignty and regional peace, security and stability. China has supported these States in their common desire and active efforts concerning the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, hoping that this goal can be achieved at an early date in order to contribute to the peace, security and stability of the Indian Ocean region and the world.

2. To achieve the goal of establishing the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace will require the joint efforts of States both within and outside of the Indian Ocean region. Major Powers outside the Indian Ocean must remove their military presence in the Indian Ocean region and refrain from using any means to carry out their threats, interference and aggression against the States of the region. The States of the Indian Ocean region must develop their mutual relations on the basis of the following five principles: mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence. China supports the idea that the States of the region will not seek armament beyond their reasonable defence needs and will adopt practical measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction to the region.

3. Recent change in the international situation has provided favourable conditions and opportunities for establishing the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. China has supported General Assembly resolution 48/82, adopted during the forty-eighth session, in which the Assembly requests the Ad Hoc Committee "to continue consideration of new alternative approaches building upon its deliberations at the session held in 1993, with a view to reaching early agreement to give new impetus to the process of strengthening cooperation and ensuring peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region". China will support the efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee, as it has done in the past, and will positively consider any reasonable, feasible new approaches that are presented by the States concerned based on extensive consultations and are conducive to the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

PAKISTAN

[Original: English]

[1 July 1994]

1. The Committee's work reflects recognition of the momentous changes in international relations which offer new opportunities for enhancing peace, security and cooperation. These transformations require a search for new alternative approaches which would lead to the achievement of the goals contained in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and as considered at the meeting of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979.

2. Delegations participating in the discussion of new alternative approaches made a number of suggestions at the 1993 meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee. Pakistan believes that some of these ideas can form a useful basis for further discussion in the Ad Hoc Committee. A graduated or step-by-step approach which would identify steps for confidence-building and promotion of cooperation are useful. However, confidence-building measures in order to be effective require certain prerequisite conditions which in many parts of the Indian Ocean are lacking.

3. Pakistan is committed to the concept of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean. The implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace will require a firm commitment by the States of the region to the principles of non-use of force, peaceful settlement of disputes and refraining from arms build-up and policies of regional military preponderance and hegemony vis-à-vis their neighbours in the region. The following should, therefore, form part of any agreement implementing the concept of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

4. Settlement of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The greatest challenge the international community has sought to deal with is that of international peace and security. The end of the cold war has not brought about an end to threats to international peace and security. In seeking to strengthen multilateral cooperation for security and for economic and social progress, the principles of the Charter of the United Nations must be firmly adhered to. These are principles of sovereign equality, self-determination of peoples, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, inadmissibility of the use of force to settle disputes and the principle of collective security. The principles of the Charter constitute the bedrock for any multilateral system, whether global or regional, which is meant to promote justice, equity and progress for all nations.

5. Outstanding disputes which are the principal source of tension in potential conflicts must be settled in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the decisions of the international community as expressed in the resolutions of the United Nations.

6. Denuclearization. The threat of nuclear proliferation must be addressed through the adoption of effective measures for denuclearization of the Indian Ocean region. These should include obligations by nuclear-weapon States to respect the nuclear-free status of the region as well as regional non-proliferation commitments by the States of the region. Steps should be taken to banish forever nuclear weapons from this region. These steps will complement and support efforts for global nuclear disarmament.

7. Legally binding assurances by nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean will facilitate the objective of denuclearization.

8. Contribution to strengthening peace by the States of the region on the basis of sovereign equality. The security concerns of smaller States of the region need to be adequately addressed. Steps should be taken to ensure that the military presence of the major Powers is not replaced by domination by regional Powers in the region. Domination either by the great-Powers or by one or more regional States, would not be in conformity with the principle of sovereign equality of States, the only basis on which a zone of peace can be established. Removal of foreign naval presence from the Indian Ocean region should be accompanied by solemn agreements amongst the regional States to foreswear the policies of domination and hegemonism. Foreign military presence to intimidate the countries of the Indian Ocean is of course against the terms of the Declaration. Equally repugnant to the spirit of the Declaration is the substitution of the foreign presence by regional hegemons who may be using the

Declaration as a platform for promoting their own ambitions and designs. Security of the Indian Ocean region, particularly of the smaller States, has to be assured both against external Powers as well as against regional hegemons.

9. Regional security arrangements in the Indian Ocean region. Urgent and simultaneous consideration should be given to the proposal for promoting regional security arrangements in the Indian Ocean. The following elements should form the basis of arrangements to be worked out amongst States of the region:

(i) A commitment to the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(ii) Settlement of outstanding disputes on the basis of the principles and relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(iii) Conventional disarmament with a view to promoting security at the lowest level of armaments. The maintenance of a reasonable ratio in the naval and military forces of the littoral and hinterland States;

(iv) A categorical renunciation of the nuclear-weapons option;

(v) Intensification of economic and environmental cooperation as economic prosperity promotes and strengthens security.

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Corrigendum

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After paragraph 9, insert

10. Participation by the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users. The Ad Hoc Committee's work should attract the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users as this will significantly enhance its effectiveness and value.

11. Pakistan believes that while historic changes in the international political landscape have provided new opportunities for strengthening international peace and security, the optimism of the recent past has been tempered by failures to resolve numerous pressing international problems. Regional conflicts, new and potential conflict situations, continued denial of the right of self-determination, massive abuses of human rights, continuation of regional military build-ups and the imbalances these create are some of the issues which are as relevant in the context of the Indian Ocean region as they are globally.

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* A/49/50/Rev.1.

12. The littoral and hinterland States should meet in the near future with a view to working out alternative approaches which could then be taken up within the framework of the United Nations for establishing a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean.